

**Alaska State Library
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

Seyfer (Seyffer), William C.

William C. Seyfer Photograph Collection, c. 1899-1930

PCA 576

4 B&W photographic prints
1 Newspaper obituary
2 Certificates [photocopies]

Processed by: Anastasia Tarmann
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ACQUISITION: The collection was donated June 12, 2006 by Yvonne Wohlferd Carrabine, Seyfer's granddaughter. Acc. # 2006-057.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

PROCESSING: This collection has been described at the item level. All items were placed in Mylar, and placed into a pH-neutral folder.

BIOGRAPHICAL or HISTORICAL NOTE

Paraphrased from donor's notes: William C. Seyfer was born April 6, 1879 in Pepin, Wisconsin. He died in July 12, 1964 at age 85, at a hospital in Wabasha. He was given the surname Seyffer at birth, however, as "relatives wanted his money when he returned from Alaska so he changed the spelling before he returned to Alaska." Seyfer worked as an 'English Watchman Fireman' on the Washington or Oregon Railroad on his way from Pepin, Wisconsin to Alaska in 1898. In Alaska he was first a goldminer, then became started his own hauling company and helped to build the road to Mt. McKinley [now called Denali]. Seyfer found a large quantity of gold, but lost much in the crash [of 1929]. He had bought a farm in Wisconsin after he returned home from Alaska. Seyfer married in 1931. He and his wife, Emma Wohlferd, lived and worked on the farm in Hicks Valley, until 1958. He and Emma moved to back to Pepin and he then served as treasurer of the Hicks Valley school district for 12 years after that.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

B&W photographs of road crew, tractors, snow clearing, road; and work certificates, ca. 1899-1930.

INVENTORY

Folder 1

- 1 [Road crew posing with tractors in grassy area]
- 2 [Tractor clearing deep snow]
- 3 [Road, grassy landscape, from above]
- 4 [Five individuals in automobile, driving between deep snow banks]
- 5 William C. Sefer Obituary
- 6 [2 photocopied certificates – 1. Railroad, 1899 2. City of Fairbanks Registration, 1918]